amnesty international

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT,
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EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

20 November 19

Indonesia/East Timor
Arrest of Xanana Gusmão

Xanana Gusmão, 45, the leader of East Timor's independence movement, *Fretilin*, was arrested by Indonesian military forces at 6am today (20 November 1992) in Dili. It is not ye known where he is detained but, shortly after his arrest, government sources said that he wa "undergoing intensive questioning" or military interrogation. Shortly after the arrest was announced Portugal, a United Nations (UN) member state, urged the UN Secretary-General seek guarantees for the safety of Xanana Gusmão.

In view of a consistent pattern of torture and ill-treatment of East Timorese political detainees while under interrogation, Amnesty International is deeply concerned for the safety of Xanana Gusmão. The organization is particularly concerned that, because of Xanana's position as commander of the armed resistance, Indonesian military authorities may employ torture to extract political and military intelligence.

Amnesty International is seeking immediate guarantees from the Indonesian authoritie that Xanana Gusmão will be treated humanely while in detention; that representatives of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) will be granted immediate and unconditional access to his place of detention; and that he will be accompanied by a lawyer his own choice while being interrogated, as required by Indonesian law.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Indonesian forces invaded East Timor in 1975 in the aftermath of Portugal's withdrawal fro its former colony. Since that time Amnesty International has continued to document serious human rights violations by Indonesian security forces in the territory, including extrajudicial execution, torture and ill-treatment, "disappearance" and political imprisonment.

In November 1991 more than 100 people were killed, and many others "disappeared after Indonesian soldiers opened fire on a peaceful procession at the Santa Cruz cemetery in Dili. The human rights situation has not improved in the year since the massacre.

The United Nations has not recognized Indonesia's sovereignty over East Timor. Talks between Indonesia and Portugal concerning the political future of the territory are scheduled to resume on 17 December 1992 under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General. It is not yet clear whether East Timorese representatives will eventually participate in the talks.

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Amnesty International is an independent worldwide movement working impartially for the release of all prisoners of conscience, fair and prompt trials for political prisoners and an end to torture and executions. It is funded by donations from its members and supporters throughout the world. It has formal relations with the United Nations, Unesco, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters either in [preferred language] or in your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of Xanana Gusmão, arrested in Dili, East Timor, on 20 November 1992;
- seeking guarantees that he will be treated humanely while in detention;
- urging that representatives of the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) be granted immediate and unconditional access to his place of detention;
- seeking assurances he will be accompanied by a lawyer of his own choice while being interrogated, as required by Indonesian law.

APPEALS TO

General Try Sutrisno
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Telegrams: Brig Gen Syafei, Dili, East Timor

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:
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JL. Diponegoro 74
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and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country
PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 31 December 1992.